



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

HIGHLAND HILLS PASTORAL CHARGE *THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA*

Highland Hills United Church
Maple Lake United Church

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Highland Hills Pastoral Charge Reports

Minister's Report

Happy New Year, I can hardly believe another year has passed already! Some would say good riddance to 2020. For many reasons, I do too but I also have so much to be thankful for in the past year and much to look forward to in 2021. Our family all seem very comfortable and also consider ourselves very fortunate to be living here in the Haliburton Highlands. Amanda continues to supply teach in our local schools. Thomas is currently 7 but his birthday is the 29th of January so he might be 8 by the time you read this. He loves grade 2 and is glad to go to school In-Person. Emily is in grade 9 this year, In-Person. She is doing very well despite high school being on the "Octomester" system, one class at a time, all day long for 22 school days in a row. Lily is in grade 12 this year! She passed her G2 drivers test in December with the old van. Now we have a new Ford Escape car. The colour is called "Rapid Red" and Lily loves driving it. Someone joked with me that now that she has her license that she would be getting a new car for Christmas. Well, that almost came true...but it is the family car just to be clear as the van finally gave up the ghost. All three kids take the same school bus into Haliburton while wearing their masks and are in the French Immersion program. Currently, the kids are all studying from home due to the second COVID-19 lockdown and first "Stay-At-Home" Order. Life sure is different with everyone at home all the time!

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our lives and the life of the church. Thanks go to our Pastoral Care teams at both churches for keeping me up-to-date and keeping everyone in touch with our church. Your mindfulness gives tangible meaning to the love of the Spirit in our churches and has been vital during this pandemic. Please give me a call if you know of someone in the hospital, someone who is sick, or someone who simply may need a visit. The Pastoral Care Committee and I appreciate your input in order to be able to try to meet the needs of others.

This year, although the Amalgamation and Integration of the Minden and Zion congregations has pretty much settled in, despite the pandemic, the Trustees were able to facilitate the sale of the Zion United Church building and the parking lot next to it. This final step, taken with great care by the Trustees, has left a capital reserve to support the health of the Highland Hills United Church congregation for future years. I would like to thank everyone that has managed to continue to support the church in various ways while also doing the extra work needed to help the Amalgamation go as smoothly as it has. Special mention to the Trustees and the Group of Four who have put a tremendous amount of careful planning, thoughtful consideration of emotions involved and shoulders to the wheel in doing much of the physical tasks of moving and selling; many thanks.

We give thanks for the continued support of Rev. John Patterson, Rev. Peter Walford-Davis, Rev. Doug Norris and Rev. Paul Reed. Also, a special thank you to Debbie Sherwin who offers us wonderful Worship Leadership. Also, I would like to thank Kathleen Owens and Melissa Stephens for your wonderful gifts of musical leadership. The worship service and our participation in it are blessed with your ministry of music. Thanks to all the musicians (alphabetically); Eric Casper, the Choir, Catherine Kellett and the Joyful Musicmakers for

adding your beautiful music. Hopefully we'll be able to resume more musical involvement when COVID-19 settles down.

We said goodbye to Diane Welborn as Secretary this year. Diane was the first person I met, through email, 17 years ago and has helped me to become the minister I am today. For all of her attention to detail and great work offered prior to the pandemic, many thanks. We all hope you are enjoying retirement.

2021 holds much promise for us all as we work and worship with the Holy Spirit in ways we never imagined a year ago. May we see the face of Christ in whoever we meet and interact with in this new year; both in the life of the church and the life of the community!

Rev. Max Ward

Unified Board Chair Report

In last year's Board Chair message, I opened by saying "As we reflect on 2019 and look forward to 2020, we are reminded of the impermanent nature of our world, our communities, and our individual lives. There are tumultuous events happening globally that have far reaching impacts. In our own corner of the world, change is all around us as life marches forward."

Who could have guessed that those words would be even more relevant for 2020? We will long remember 2020 as the year when everything changed, and we learned to do things differently.

So many people give freely of their time to support our churches. I would like to express my ongoing and heartfelt appreciation to everyone – staff, Unified Board members, committee chairs and members, other volunteers, etc. - who has stepped up to help our church community continue to navigate through these difficult waters. Special thanks to Rev. Max who bears the brunt of the work required to keep us moving forward together.

Online Zoom worship services have been going very well, many thanks to Rev. Max, Melissa Stephens, and the volunteer Zoom co-hosts for making these services happen.

Our members, adherents and friends continue to do a wonderful job keeping up with donations and we appreciate that a great deal.

Our church buildings will remain closed for worship for the foreseeable future and are being checked on a regular basis by volunteers. While the decision to remain closed for worship is not an easy one, many thanks to all Board members for making the wise decision to put the health and safety of our church community members first.

In 2020 we experienced many losses as members and friends of our church community passed away and others moved to be closer to family, health care, etc. We have also experienced the loss of our "normal" way of life and are missing the opportunities to get together with family and friends. We all share the pain of these losses and offer our support to those who are grieving in any way.

2020 saw the retirement of Diane Welborn, long-time Pastoral Charge Secretary, and Lynn and Wayne Cox, long-time cleaners at HHUC. We wish them all the best in their well-deserved retirement.

While it is challenging to let go of what we have grown accustomed to, there is tremendous opportunity in front of us as we think about new and different ways to serve our churches and broader communities.

Please stay safe and well.

Lois Deacon

Highland Hills Pastoral Charge and United Church 2020 Annual Joint General Meeting

at Highland Hills United Church, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020

ATTENDANCE Maple Lake United Church: Albert Carpenter, Judy Carpenter, Larry Giles, Beverly Upton, Allan Upton

ATTENDANCE Highland Hills United Church: Irene Alexander, Brian Austen, Michael Barnes, Barbara Braker, Walter Braker, Eric Casper, Fred Chapple, Joan Chapple, Rebekah Chevalier, Shawn Chevalier, Donna Darby, Neil Darby, Lois Deacon, Bruce Down, Joan Down, Jim Fahl, Jude Fisher, Gail Flook, Erskine Flook, Mary Fox, Jaklin Johnston, Pearl Kernohan, Ivan Kernohan, Kathy Kernohan, Glenna Koehler, Elly Malcomson, Ross McMullen, Barb Moore, Tom Parish, Jessie Pflug, Paul Rutledge, Milt Shepherd, Sue Sisson, Edna Taylor, Winn Taylor, Pat Thornett, Barbara Walford-Davis, Irma Walker, Mark Walker, Rev. Max Ward, Tanya Warne, Wilma Warne, Diane Welborn, Keith Welborn, Marybeth Wilson

Rev. Max Ward welcomed everyone and asked for nominations for chair and secretary.

Motion: Barbara Walford-Davis/Sue Sisson that Lois Deacon be nominated as chair and Rebekah Chevalier be nominated as secretary. **Carried.**

Rev. Max Ward opened the meeting in prayer. Lois Deacon welcomed people and gave thanks for the sunny day versus the weather at last year's AGM. She gave a special welcome to those from Maple Lake United Church.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Marybeth Wilson/Larry Giles that the agenda be approved. **Carried.**

3. ADHERENTS VOTING

Motion: Joan Chapple/Gail Flook that adherents be allowed to vote on all matters. **Carried.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of Highland Hills Pastoral Charge and Church AGM (Annual Report pp. 3-5)

Motion: Ross McMullen/Neil Darby that the pastoral charge AGM minutes be approved. **Carried.**

5. CORRESPONDENCE: None

6. and 7. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF HIGHLAND HILLS PASTORAL CHARGE 2019 FINANCIAL ACTUALS AND BUDGET (Annual Report pp. 6-8)

It was noted that the pastoral charge's finances are separated out from Highland Hills United Church finances. Erskine Flook reviewed the documents and explained the reason for the \$5,000 shortfall. Line 6, HST is \$0 because the HST refund was not received. Line 24,

manse oil costs were up due to the price of oil and the timing of a refill at the end of the year. Line 25, manse repairs are up due to work done on the chimney and we are anticipating that the furnace may break down. He noted that long term, we are looking at replacing the furnace.

Erskine reviewed the balance sheet (page 8). The budget has increased 3% over last year. Line 14 stays the same because we elected to pay the denominational assessment on a fixed basis initially. In 2022, this will be going up to almost \$9,000.

Motion: Erskine Flook/Brian Austen that we accept the proposed budget for Highland Hills Pastoral Charge for 2020. **Carried.**

8. HIGHLAND HILLS PASTORAL CHARGE REPORTS (Annual Report pp. 9-11, 13-14, 16-17)
Pat Thornett noted that on p. 14, "2019 Mission and Service Fund," the 2019 total for pastoral charge should be adjusted by \$210.25, as that amount was designated for Food For the North and could not be included in our regular M&S. Final pastoral charge total for 2019 was \$22,855.10.

Motion: Barbara Braker/Barb Walford-Davis that the pastoral charge reports be accepted. **Carried.**

9. APPROVAL OF MISSION & SERVICE OBJECTIVE (Annual Report p. 14)

Erskine Flook noted that both operating and administrative costs used to be part of M&S, in addition to mission costs. With the restructuring of The United Church of Canada, that is no longer the case. Operating and administrative costs will now be paid from a direct assessment of each pastoral charge. Previously, approximately one third of M&S givings went to supporting the governance of the national United Church. Starting now, those costs will be paid from assessments. Thus M&S, which will only include mission, is going to increase by 30%. The congregation was asked to please keep this in mind as they move forward with their givings

Lois Deacon continued to clarify this. With the restructuring of the national United Church (e.g., there are no longer presbyteries and Conferences but regional councils) there were changes in how denominational assessments are calculated. These changes would see Highland Hills Pastoral Charge's assessment increase from \$5,400 to \$9,000, and we chose to defer that increase as long as we could. The national United Church has created some new offices, such as the Office of Vocations, with staff to deal with issues that were previously dealt with by Conferences. The "service" side of M&S was split off and we will now be paying for the service side from our assessments. By keeping our M&S target the same, we have actually increased donations to mission. We're asking to keep the M&S objective the same for 2020, which means we are giving more to mission. We're asking that people balance their givings to M&S with giving to their local congregation.

It was noted that at the Maple Lake United Church annual general meeting, it lowered its M&S objective for 2020 from \$2,100 to \$1,800. Therefore, the pastoral charge M&S objective for 2020 would be \$300 less than 2019.

Motion: Tom Parish/Brian Austen that the M&S objective for 2020 for the pastoral charge be \$17,800. This includes \$1,800 from Maple Lake and \$2,000 from the UCW. **Carried.**

It was suggested that the congregation be updated when and if we reach the M&S objective, in case people want to decide to stop giving to M&S for the rest of the year and give that amount to local expenses instead.

10. and 11. ELECTION OF HIGHLAND HILLS PASTORAL CHARGE AND CHURCH OFFICERS
(Annual Report, p. 15)

Motion: Erskine Flook/Wilma Warne that the proposed slate of officers be approved.
Carried.

Motion: Erskine Flook/Barb Walford-David that the signing authority for Highland Hills Pastoral Charge bank account at TD Canada Trust and for Highland Hills United Church's bank account at CIBC shall be as follows. **Carried.**

Treasurer of the Unified Board (or delegate): Jude Fisher

And one of the following: Chair of the Unified Board (Lois Deacon); Chair-elect of the Unified Board (Janet Heffer); Past Chair of the Unified Board (Erskine Flook); Chair of the Board of Trustees of Highland Hills United Church (Bruce McClennan)

12. HIGHLAND HILLS UNITED CHURCH 2019 FINANCIAL ACTUALS AND BUDGET (Annual Report pp. 100-103)

Erskine Flook noted that weekly givings are down about 10% because a number of supporters have left us either through death or by moving away. Fundraising is also down. Walter Braker has decided to retire from doing his wonderful turkey pie fundraiser. Erskine thanked Walter and Barb Braker for their years of hard work on the turkey pie fundraiser. He also thanked Tom Parish, Donna Darby, Bruce Down, and Pat Thornett for all their efforts in fundraising.

It was noted that the HST rebate is \$0 for 2019. This is because we changed the name associated with the charitable number, closing Zion and changing the name from Minden United to Highland Hills United, but the federal government involved in HST refund needed much clarification and discussion. This is close to being completed. We will get the \$10,000 owed from last year in 2020 as well as the 2020 rebate.

The lack of HST rebate (\$9,500), the decrease in givings (\$9,000), and the increase in the cost of oil for the manse (\$3,000) makes the bottom line for 2019 look bad. Erskine Flook noted that we knew 2019 would be challenging financially because we were still carrying two buildings.

Regarding the 2020 budget, in most cases it is the same as 2019. Erskine noted that he and Don Pflug did a little study looking at how many people we might lose in the next 5 years through old age and moving away and estimated that we may lose 15 people from our family who gave a total of \$23,000 in weekly givings and \$9,000 in M&S in 2019. That works out to \$6,700 a year if people left "orderly" once a year. Lois Deacon thanked Erskine Flook and Don Pflug for doing that kind of analysis. She noted that the reality is the demographics of our congregation are such that we can anticipate losing some folks every

year. We can also anticipate gaining some new members. The point is to ask members to be thoughtful and mindful about their giving and also to realize the importance of fundraising.

It was asked how many people contribute by PAR. Don Pflug knows this number and is not at the meeting, so the question could not be answered. However, it was noted that the number has doubled in the last year. Lois Deacon noted that what we are facing is quite typical of churches like ours, and we are actually in quite good shape. She said some folks look at the money in reserves and feel they don't need to increase their givings because of the reserves, but the reality is that much of those reserves are restricted and cannot be used for operating costs. There is some interest, but the interest can only be used with the approval of the congregation.

Referring to page 101, Erskine noted that the 2020 budget assumes that the Zion building will be sold by the end of June, so the 2019 numbers were cut by half except for taxes, because we still own the separate lot across the road. The 2020 budget shows a balance of \$-4,264. There was a question as to the rental income being increased by 50% and what kind of work was being done to realize this. Under personnel, under janitor services, it was questioned as to why the costs are so similar for Minden and Zion, despite Zion not operating. The response is that there is a transition period. Zion property needs to be maintained to be viable for sale and to protect the asset, so janitorial services continue, such as snow shovelling. There was a question as to why the dollar amount for janitorial services for Zion is more than the dollar amount for Minden. The answer is because the janitor from Zion is doing some work for Minden. There was confusion as to whether the Zion building had been sold. The answer is, no. It was noted that the issue of janitorial services is coming to a resolution. There have been conversations at the Unified Board, so it will be addressed.

13. APPROVAL OF HIGHLAND HILLS UNITED CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2020

Motion: Erskine Flook/Joan Chapple that the 2020 Highland Hills United Church operating budget be approved. **Carried.**

Erskine Flook noted that the building fund as shown in the 2019 budget reflects the chair fund and UCW donations for kitchen renovations, which will not appear in 2020. There was an expression of thanks to the Finance Committee for doing the finances during an amalgamation. Don Ballantyne has indicated he is stepping down from the Finance Committee. Don was thanked for his years of service working on church and pastoral charge finances.

14. HIGHLAND HILLS UNITED CHURCH REPORTS (Annual Report pp. 104-116)

It was noted under the fundraising report (p. 105) that the Elvis impersonator fundraising event should be added as it was not noted.

Motion: Paul Rutledge/Neil Darby that the Highland Hills United Church reports be approved. **Carried.**

15. TRUSTEES REPORT (Annual Report p. 107)

Chair Bruce McClennan is away. It was noted that 2019 was a challenging year to prepare Zion for sale. There was a round of applause for Bruce and the trustees. Appreciation was expressed Joan Chapple and the group of 4 (Rev. Max Ward, Ross McMullen, Irene Alexander, and Joan Chapple) for their work to disburse the items from Zion. A number of the items have gone to the Stanhope Museum. Some of the historical records are now being stored in appropriate climate-controlled conditions, which was not the case before.

16. VISIONING UPDATE (Annual Report p. 112)

Shawn Chevalier noted that from previous visioning sessions we want to focus on two things: to work and develop our internal relations to support and nurture those currently within our congregation; and also to explore how we ourselves can be of better service to our community. There is a visioning session on Sunday, March 29 after the service to refine and hone in on what are some things we could do in these two areas. Maple Lake members were invited to attend the March 29 event.

17. POTENTIAL LIFT FOR HIGHLAND HILLS UNITED CHURCH

A handout was distributed (attached), which Neil Darby read. He noted that the \$72,000 estimated cost is probably light. Construction is not anticipated until 2021, as it would need to be done in the summer. He clarified that what is being sought now is approval from the congregation for the first stage (outlined in the third paragraph of the handout), for conceptual drawings, to spend up to \$2,000. He said the Unified Board did not feel we could ask for approval of the whole project until we have a better idea of costs and possible funding sources and grants.

Motion: Neil Darby/Keith Welborn that the first stage of this project, as outlined in paragraph three of the handout, be approved. **Carried.**

A question was asked about the ramps. Erskine Flook clarified that the lift would provide access at street level and also up to the sanctuary or down to the basement without having to go outside. A question was asked about the provincial government deadline of 2025. It was noted that we have to be fully accessible, not just with ramps, but with a lift so there is no impediment to anyone coming in. All public buildings will have to comply. A question was asked about the three steps up to the chancel. It was acknowledged that there is more to do. The law will require accessibility to all parts of buildings. If anyone would like to be part of the accessibility committee, they are asked to speak to Neil Darby.

18. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Lois Deacon noted that we are busy churches doing our best for our communities and our members. For the most part, we are volunteers. She gave a reminder to thank volunteers who work on our behalf. We have come a long way in the last few years. Hats off to everyone who has worked so hard to bring us to where we are. When you look at other churches our size across Canada, you will see how well we have done. Lois acknowledged that the forethought and background work done on what the pastoral charge would be facing in the future by Ross McMullen, Erskine Flook, and Joan and Fred Chapple have positioned us well to move forward. This is hard but we are in a good position due to this work. Finances are OK, but we need to be careful with expenditures and reserves. The accessibility piece is a large initiative for the future. She asked that members balance

givings between local and Mission & Service. She made mention of the closing service at Zion and how meaningful it was. Lois noted that looking ahead, we are moving forward with visioning. She challenged all members to look in the mirror and ask, what can I do for my church community this year? That can be as simple as calling someone who is lonely or something bigger like working on the accessibility initiative.

19. APPRECIATION

Thanks were expressed to Rev. Max Ward, Diane Welborn, Melissa Stephens, Kathleen Owens, Catherine Kellett, the caretakers, choir members, Joyful Musicmakers, and committee chairs and members. Pat Thornett was thanked for all she does to arrange food for so many occasions. Barb Braker was thanked for providing Sunday school for children and maintaining the bulletin boards downstairs. Thanks were expressed to all the volunteers in the congregation. Thanks also to Rebekah Chevalier for taking the minutes and to those providing food to follow the meeting. Thanks were expressed to Lois Deacon for all her work as the Chair.

20. Rev. Max Ward closed the meeting in prayer.

Erksine Flook moved adjournment.

Highland Hills Pastoral Charge 2020 Actuals 2020 Budget and 2021 Budget

	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
INCOME			
Church Assessments(% based on 2017,'18,'19 avg donations)			
Church Assessments:Highland Hills			
1	88,006.00	96,408.00	84,840.00
Church Assessments:Maple Lake			
2	13,756.00	14,268.00	12,720.00
3	101,762.00	110,676.00	97,560.00
4	Other Income		
5	462.50	0.00	0.00
6	1,479.50		
7	0.00	1,900.00	1,000.00
8	800.00	800.00	800.00
9	389.88	100.00	100.00
10	22.50	40.00	0.00
11	3,154.38	2,840.00	1,900.00
12	104,916.38	113,516.00	99,460.00
14	EXPENSES		
15	5,413.00	5,413.00	5,413.00
16	551.87	1,442.00	1,474.00
17	5,964.87	6,855.00	6,887.00
18	Manse		
19	2,156.71	2,000.00	2,000.00
20	196.85	200.00	200.00
21	531.00	531.00	600.00
22	1,630.68	3,000.00	2,700.00
23	1,356.21	2,200.00	1,000.00
24	1,398.34	1,500.00	1,500.00
25	275.34	600.00	1,555.00
26	1,460.51	1,500.00	1,500.00
27	9,005.64	11,531.00	11,055.00
28	Office		
29	2,686.89	2,500.00	3,200.00
30	1,059.93		
31	1,696.83	1,500.00	1,500.00
32	316.88	1,000.00	800.00
33	5,760.53	5,000.00	5,500.00

34	Other			
35	Other:Administration	58.65	50.00	50.00
36	Other:Advertising	0.00	200.00	200.00
37	Other:Bank Charge	34.65	35.00	35.00
38	Other:Benevolent Fund Expense	332.80	0.00	0.00
	Other:Conference/Region Annual			
39	Meeting		400.00	0.00
40	Other:Legal	861.63		
41	Other:M&S		0.00	0.00
42	Other:Misc.	663.10	600.00	200.00
43	Other:Outreach Committee	474.34	700.00	600.00
44	TOTAL Other	2,425.17	1,985.00	1,085.00
45	Payroll			
46	Payroll:CPP & EI	3,336.27	3,500.00	2,900.00
47	Payroll:Fees	305.51	300.00	300.00
48	Payroll:GPI & P	12,617.01	12,600.00	11,400.00
49	Payroll:Salary - Minister	46,980.96	46,981.00	48,015.00
50	Payroll: Salary-Secretary	12,708.92	17,914.00	8,950.00
51	TOTAL Payroll	75,948.67	81,295.00	71,565.00
52	Pulpit Supply	2,186.96	4,000.00	2,000.00
53	Travel	869.82	2,500.00	1,300.00
54	TOTAL EXPENSES	102,161.66	113,166.00	99,392.00
55	OVERALL TOTAL	2,754.72	350.00	68.00

Highland Hills Pastoral Charge Notes to the Unaudited Statement of Receipts and Disbursements with Budget for Period Ending Dec. 31, 2020

(with comparative figures for the years ended Dec. 31, 2018 and 2019)

Note #1

<u>CASH, INVESTMENTS AND RECEIVABLES</u>	2018	2019	2020
Cash, investments and receivables as at December 31st represents:			
General Bank Account			
General Funds – includes Contingency Allowance of 2016 (2.5 K)	\$ 13,808.45	\$ 8,897.96	\$ 10,451.12
Savings (Hold account for Business VISA card)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Benevolent Funds	\$ 1,252.46	\$ 1,612.46	\$ 1,742.16
Manse Bank Account	\$ 937.60	\$ 1,753.81	\$ 2,491.23
Total Cash, Investments and Receivables	<u>\$ 15,746.05</u>	<u>\$ 11,651.77</u>	<u>\$ 13,942.35</u>

Note #2

OTHER INCOME

Other Income Misc is Lenten Books \$160, calendars \$51, new Cheques for HHUC on the HHPC Visa \$76.07, Misc Coin \$5.25, Hyland Crest Gift donations \$80 and Cash Back of VISA \$17.56.

East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) Report

Mike Milne has written an excellent article in the January/February 2021 issue of *Broadview*, that examines the restructuring of The United Church of Canada's governance model that officially began in January 2019. Surprisingly, with the church in the middle of transition, the COVID-19 pandemic has been somewhat of a blessing in disguise. It has seen us scramble to provide virtual worship services and meetings at all levels of the church. Here at Highland Hills Pastoral Charge, we have welcomed increasing numbers of participants, including many who wouldn't normally attend our in-person services.

In these unprecedented times, ECORC's 2020 administration costs have been reduced, as no travel has occurred since the March 2020 lockdown. The Spring Annual Meeting was cancelled, and the Assembly of Elders and Leadership Forum and Team meetings continue to be held online.

At the Fall Annual Meeting, it was shared that the administration has been focused on church closures, sale of land, and the needs of rural ministry, with respect to technology. The ECORC Treasurer advised that Regional Councils and Communities of Faith are to expect the same funding for administration and mission in 2021. Once meetings return to in-person, communities of faith will be expected to cover 100% of a lay representative's travel costs.

Twenty-six Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWLs) were re-licensed for the next two years, including your Pastoral Charge member, Debbie Sherwin.

We were all asked to consider what it means to be a church in a hurting world.

As the COVID-19 impact continues to unfold, The United Church of Canada's 2020-2021 priorities remain:

- Truth and Reconciliation
- A Place at the Table for All (Equity, Affirming, and Racial Justice)
- Rural Ministry
- Children and Youth
- Care of Creation

ECORC's Leadership Teams and Forums have been providing online study groups and webinars to put these commitments into action.

Debbie Sherwin, ECORC Representative for Highland Hills Pastoral Charge

Manse Report

Annual meeting of the manse committee was held in August 2020. Rev. Max's expenses were approved and paid \$262.58. Balance in manse account is \$2491.23.

It was approved that we replace oil furnace with propane. That work has been done and it is working well. Total cost of propane furnace and labour \$6,746.28 included removal of old oil furnace and tank. The old oil tank was removed and the hole against the wall was insulated by Max.

Brian Austen

Minden Community Food Centre (Formerly, Minden Food Bank) Report

The year of the pandemic has been very challenging for MCFC, but thanks to the many generous and compassionate individuals, churches, service clubs, businesses, Volunteers, The Township of Minden Hills and our devoted staff, we have been able to keep up with the additional needs in our community and maintain the proper protocols of operating during COVID-19. Because of this generosity, we met our 2020 budget predictions, and as the needs in the community grow, we are ready to be able to continue helping all those who are in need. Here are some HIGHLIGHTS of our operation in 2020:

-Canoe FM provided 3 very generous donations from their BINGO program. We then were able to purchase large quantities of food and share it among the 6 food banks in the County.

-Because we are able to store and then distribute bulk quantities of food to all the food banks in Haliburton County, we are now officially named the MINDEN COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE.

-Feed Ontario gave us many skids of emergency food, which we stored and then shared as above.

-18 skids of emergency hampers from Food Banks Canada were used for our clients and for the Christmas Hampers. Christmas Hampers included turkey or ham, lots of food and appropriate toys for children.

-The Township of Minden Hills allowed us to store these skids of food in one of their buildings until we were ready to use them. We also received financial aid from this Township.

-Kawartha Dairy kindly offered to store 120 free frozen turkeys which we received early in the fall. KD is always there when we need extra refrigeration storage.

-Over 170 Christmas hampers were distributed this year from the Community Centre. A scheduled drive-through pickup program was created by our staff because no recipients could enter the Centre. This proved to be very successful. The staff and a few volunteers made it work like clockwork!! Thanks to Joanne Barnes and Linda Shulist for making this work.

-Since March, only staff and a few volunteers have been in our building. Handling and cleaning protocols have been very strict. All food has been picked up at the door. We have about 170 families on our client list. This could well increase as the pandemic continues.

-Our kitchen has been producing an average of 80 frozen meals weekly. These are very popular items.

-The Minden LCBO and the Minden Beer Store both had collection boxes for the MCFC and the Beer Store collected thousands of cans and bottles which were turned into cash for our use.

-After many dedicated years of service as Chair of the Board and Kitchen Manager, Marilynne Lesperance is going to try retirement again. Many thanks to Marilynne for all she has done over the years. We wish her all the best in this new chapter of her life.

-Joanne Barnes and Kim Russell will continue to make the frozen meals until we find a new Kitchen Cook.

-Finally, we would again like to thank all those who support the MINDEN COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE. Our goal is clear and we could not reach that goal without your support.

Please make out all cheques to the MINDEN COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE. Our address is: 24 Newcastle St. Box 893, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0. There is a secure lock box on the building if you wish to drop donations there. MCFC Hours-Mon. and Wed. From 11: a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Emergency No. 705-854-9208. Web Site: [www. MindenCommunityFoodCentre.org](http://www.MindenCommunityFoodCentre.org). Online donations always appreciated.

Jim Hicks

Ministry and Personnel Committee Report

The Ministry and Personnel Committee held one in-person meeting in March 2020, just prior to the announcement of the Covid 19 pandemic and the subsequent church building closures. Subsequent discussions and decisions were made by telephone and email. Reverend Max has continued to update us on his ongoing activities and mileage through quarterly reports although unfortunately his vacation and sabbatical plans were mostly upended due to the pandemic. His earned and deserved Sabbatical has been deferred until either 2021 or 2022.

Shawn Chevalier took over the reigns from Bruce McClennan as chair of the Committee. Thankfully Bruce has remained on the Committee to offer wise counsel. We thank Jim Hicks, who has chosen to step back after many years of service and contributions to the Church through the M&P Committee.

We made recommendations to the Official Board regarding Vacation and Study Leave and Salaries for the minister, music director and secretary.

The M&P Committee had to make the necessary but tough decision to recommend the temporary layoff of the Charge Secretary and the two caretakers as of May 1st due to the Province mandated closures of the church buildings.

Lynn Cox retired from her many years of faithful caretaking services at Minden's Highland Hills United Church on June 1st. Paul Rutledge resumed mid-June with occasional caretaking duties at Highland Hills as well as at Zion United Church, until the finalized sale of that property.

The M&P Committee made the difficult choice to recommend to the Board the permanent layoff of Diane Welborn, our Charge Secretary, as of September 14th after the Province's Infectious Disease Emergency Leave had expired and the church buildings remained closed. Advice was sought from the UCC Regional Council Office Pastoral Relations Advisor and an employment lawyer to ensure this process was followed properly and sensitively. We thank Diane for over 22 years of dedicated service to the Pastoral Charge.

Many thanks to Reverend Max and Melissa Stephens for stepping up without hesitation to adapt readily to the changes and for providing excellent remote services to the pastoral charge and for also, along with Janet Heffer and Lois Deacon, carrying out many day-to-day administrative tasks.

A new job description for the Charge Secretary position will be crafted to reflect new technical and administrative duties, influenced by experiences operating through the pandemic. We aim to fill the position once the church buildings re-open for in-person worship.

The M&P Committee continues to be available to address any concerns of the congregation. They must be submitted in writing. We are here to also address any concerns of the employees of the Pastoral Charge. We hope 2021 will bring fewer unexpected surprises.

Members: Shawn Chevalier (Chair), Bruce McClennan, Wilma Warne, Shirley Johnston, Larry Giles, Jim Hicks

Shawn Chevalier

2020 Mission and Service Fund

December 31, 2020

	2020 Objective	2020 Year
Highland Hills		
Congregation - M & S	\$14,000.00	18,188.00
HH UCW -M & S	2,000.00	2,000.00
- World Dev.		<u>100.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>16,000.00</u>	<u>20,288.00</u>
Maple Lake		
Congregation - M & S	1,800.00	1,560.00
TOTAL	<u>1,800.00</u>	<u>1,560.00</u>
Total for Pastoral Charge	<u>\$ 17,800.00</u>	<u>\$21,848.00</u>

Remittances for the year. Thank you to all who donated to help us reach our objective.

Pat Thornett

Nominating Committee's Proposed Slate of Officers and Committees for 2021

Highland Hills United Church & Pastoral Charge

Officers of Unified Board

Past Chair	Erskine Flook
Chair	Lois Deacon
Chair-elect	Janet Heffer
Secretary	Rebekah Chevalier
Treasurer	Jude Fisher
Maple Lake Representative	Larry Giles

Trustees: Brian Austen, Joan Chapple, Tom Davidson, Wes Lytle, Bruce McClennan, Ross McMullen, Rev. Max Ward

Committees: (the Chair or a Representative from each committee is a member of the Board)

Finance: Jude Fisher, Erskine Flook, Don Pflug (Envelope Steward & PAR)

Manse: Brian Austen, Andy Cooper, Barbara Walford-Davis, (+ML member)

Ministry & Personnel: Shawn Chevalier, Bruce McClennan, Wilma Warne, Larry Giles(ML), Shirley Johnson(ML)

Nominating: Lois Deacon, Erskine Flook, Janet Heffer

Outreach: Carolyn Coburn*, Margo Davison, Joan Grant, Glenna Koehler*, Carol McClennan*, Debbie Sherwin*, Pat Thornett, Mary Trepanier*, Barb Walford-Davis, Diane Welborn, Thea Paterson ML (* associate member)

Pastoral Care: Irene Alexander, Nancy Ballantyne, Walter/ Barb Braker, Jack/Wille Cox, Gail Flook, Elinor Hamilton, Kathy Harrison, Barb Parish, Sue Sisson, Irma Walker, Wilma Warne, Marybeth Wilson

East Central Ontario Regional Council Representative: ex officio: Rev. Max Ward, Debbie Sherwin

Property: Brian Austen, Neil Darby, Bruce Down, Jim Fahl, Paul Rutledge, Barb Walford-Davis, Keith Welborn

Stewardship: Donna Darby, Tom Parish

UCW Representative

Worship and Christian Education: Eric Casper, Joan Chapple, Donna Darby, Gail Flook, Janet Heffer, Debbie Sherwin, Pat Thornett, Rev. Max Ward, Melissa Stephens, Music Director, (+ML)

Visioning Group (ad hoc): Shawn Chevalier, Eric Casper, Jaklin Casper

Board Member-at-Large: Joan Chapple

NOTE: (+ML)=Maple Lake UC will provide a representative to the Unified Board and the various committees.

Erskine Flook

Outreach Committee

Our committee held January and February meetings at the home of Barb Walford-Davis. August to December monthly meetings were via Zoom.

In January we planned our Projects for 2020. We were able to have the February 23rd Pink Shirt Day but all other events took a different form than usual.

Truth and Reconciliation - we purchased the book "Highway of Tears" to loan from the office. We also brought in the moose hide squares as part of the Moose Hide Campaign worn to show you are against violence against Indigenous women and children. Rev. Max read the letter from the Moderator one Sunday dealing with support for the Indigenous people and the current rail stoppage.

Masks for Archie Stouffer Elementary School - we offered to help the school with school supplies but they felt they needed masks for the children. We took \$400.00 from our budget to purchase masks from Penny Manol. Melissa Stephens also made masks for us. We asked the congregation to make masks or donate towards the cost of masks. Our committee was also responsible for sanitizing and bagging the masks. Over 400 were delivered. (See UCW report for more information.)

Broadview for Hyland Crest – the former Kawartha Highlands Presbytery nor the East Central Ontario Region are no longer covering the cost of subscriptions for senior's residences so we voted to cover Hyland Crest. Glenna Koehler looked after this plus 32 subscriptions for the congregation.

Thanksgiving Food Bank Drive –announced in bulletin from September 20 to October 11th. It is estimated that \$530.00 was donated by church members.

Abbey Retreat Centre – some of our members participated in the Haliburton Highlands Challenge. The total raised by the Challenge was over \$71,000.00. They are doing online courses and retreats for cancer patients and their support person. Doug Norris retired in October and they have two part time co-leaders, namely Lois Deacon and Barb Smith Morrison. Rental of their property helps to cover upkeep costs.

Environment Haliburton invited us to be part of their Global Day of Climate Action on September 25th at noon by the train near the Haliburton Highland Secondary School.

Twoonies for M & S – October 18 to November 1 we appealed for funds for Food for the North or True North Aid.

H.A.V.E. – we could not do our walk in June so decided to have an appeal in November.

Gifts for Hyland Crest - Barb and Rev. Max collected chocolates, puddings, biscuits and \$80.00 to cover the gifts required for the patients.

Gifts with Vision – we were invited to check this out online and donate as we wished.

Knitting for Warmth – Mary reported they have made 35 blankets during COVID-19. Blankets made since 2002 are 2,616.

Places for People – Rev. Max reported they have an accepted offer on the Lakeview Motel in Haliburton. It is conditional on them getting a grant from Rapid Housing Initiative. This would give them 16 more units of housing.

Poverty Education – Debbie Sherwin did a Bridges out of Poverty training for the Mayors, Deputy Mayors and staff. She was recently involved in Getting Ahead training for people in poverty.

Committee members: Barb Walford Davis Chair, Margo Davidson, Joan Grant Thea Patterson, Rev. Max Ward, and Pat Thornett, Secretary. Associate Members: Carolynn Coburn, Glenna Koehler, Carol McClennan, Debbie Sherwin and Mary Trepanier. These ladies report to us regarding their area of involvement.

THANK YOU we appreciate all the support from the congregation for the projects we propose.

Pat Thornett

Protocol Ad Hoc Committee Report

The purpose of this Ad Hoc committee, as created by the Unified Board, was to develop COVID-19 safety protocols for Highland Hills Pastoral Charge, Highland Hills United Church and Maple Lake United Church where appropriate.

Soon after the COVID-19 pandemic began, it became evident that safety protocols would be needed in order to continue worshiping safely and jointly even with the use of Zoom and also to permit limited use of the HHUC building. It was determined early on that Maple Lake United Church is simply too small to safely meet in-person at this time. The committee met several times at HHUC to develop the following 10 protocols to date: (copies available upon request)

Highland Hills Pastoral Charge COVID-19 Screening Questions
Highland Hills Pastoral Charge Protocol for Pulpit Supply Using Zoom
Highland Hills Pastoral Charge Protocol if Feeling Unwell – Preacher
Highland Hills Pastoral Charge Protocol if Feeling Unwell – Zoom Co-Host
Highland Hills United Church Protocol if Feeling Unwell – Pianist
Highland Hills United Church Protocol for Small Groups 10 or less
Highland Hills United Church Protocol for Pastoral Visiting
Highland Hills United Church Protocol for Weddings
Highland Hills United Church Protocol for Funerals
Highland Hills United Church Protocol for In-Person Worship

The last protocol regarding In-Person Worship has not been finalized nor approved by the Unified Board at this time due to the on-going risk of COVID-19. Also, the small group protocol has been adapted and tailored to specific groups as needed. The small committee has worked well together and has found the work interesting and eye-opening learning about safety protocols and the limitations of our church buildings. We all look forward to the day when the threat of COVID-19 subsides and we can set aside these protocols to resume worshiping together in-person in the familiar way that we have grown accustomed to. Until then, we pray that these safety protocols help us to stay safe while we strive to offer limited meeting space and worship services. Thank you from all of us to all of you for your cooperation in following the protocols to the best of your ability.

Members: Rev. Max Ward (Moderator), Jan Heffer and Andy Cooper

Rev. Max Ward

Statistics 2020

	Highland Hills (Minden)	Maple Lake	Other	TOTAL
Marriages	-	-	14	14
Baptisms	-	-	-	-
Funerals	-	-	4	4
Transfers In	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-

Baptisms for 2020

None

Transfers In:

None

Transfers Out:

None – other than by way of death

Marriages 2020

June 21st Melissa Hurley and Nygel Weishar
Newmarket Residence

June 27th Kathyryne Laraya and Ross McCarthy
Minden Hills Residence

July 11th Julia Ranson and David Owen Cord
Kennisis Lake Residence

August 1st Alex Ferreira and Victoria Didiano
Coboconk Residence

August 22nd Jessica Noble and Larry Little
Minden Hills Residence

September 12th James Buckley and Kayla Brown
Bonnie View Inn, Haliburton

September 12th Robert Lowes and Anna Schleifenbaum
Kennisis Lake Residence

September 19th Daniel Shalin and Elizabeth Bugg
Minden Hills Residence

September 24th Ryan Kerr and Christine Brophy
Minden Hills Residence

September 25th Travis Wiebe and Louise Marshall
Furnace Falls, Irondale
September 26th Scott Mathieu and Katarina Small
Chateau Woodlands, Haliburton
November 7th Aaron Woodful and Merissa Stephenson
Minden Hills Residence
November 29th Valeria Kotliarova and Vitali Fedarchuk
Huntsville Residence
December 13th Shantell Lo and Darin Cheung
Minden Hills Residence

In Memoriam

...In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.
-A New Creed

We place our hope in God.
We sing of a life beyond life and a future good beyond imagining:
a new heaven and a new earth, the end of sorrow, pain, and tears,
Christ's return and life with God, the making new of all things.
We yearn for the coming of that future, even while participating in eternal life now.
-A Song of Faith

Due to COVID-19, fewer funeral services have taken place compared to a typical year. The people listed below have been compiled as best as possible but we apologize for any omissions.

Merle Codlin
Bill Milford
Bernard Arbour
Ila Griffin
Margaret Brown
Mabel Deacon
Eileen Shepstone
John Strange
Keith Robinson

Highland Hills Pastoral Charge Worship and CE Report

2020 - What an unusual year for all of us! We started out worshipping on Sunday mornings at Highland Hills and Maple Lake United Churches, but after March 15th, our churches were closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. By the following Sunday, we were connecting for worship on our computers and telephones. We appreciated being able to live-stream our services from Haliburton UC until our church internet was updated. It was a bit of an uphill learning curve for everyone, but we are fortunate to have a willing and 'tech knowledgeable' minister, Rev. Max Ward, with assistance from our Music Director, Melissa Stephens. After purchasing some new equipment and some experimenting, we have become quite comfortable gathering virtually. Thanks to Max and Melissa, and to Zoom Co-Hosts, Andy, Emily, Mary, Pat and Rebekah, who make things a little less stressful for the worship leader. We appreciate the participation of the scripture readers and Joan Chapple who organizes the readers and co-hosts for us. Rev. Max was to have had six weeks of sabbatical time in 2020, but agreed to postpone that under the current circumstances. The minister did have a few Sundays off thanks to those capable people providing Pulpit Supply, namely Leslie King, Doug Norris, Paul Reed, and Debbie Sherwin.

Concerning Christian Education, Barb Braker faithfully prepared stories, crafts and snacks for children attending while the church was open. About a dozen people got together in person and later on Zoom to share ideas and insights while reading the Lenten study "Faithfully Yours - Letters for the Wondering". During the summer, we held Zoom discussions on the book "Radical Amazement - Contemplative Lessons from Black Holes, Supernovas and Other Wonders of the Universe" by Judy Cannato. This sounds complicated but it was an interesting book which demonstrated harmony between science and spirituality, and the connectedness of all creation.

In December, the congregation enjoyed two special online evening events. The first was a light-hearted evening of stories and the opportunity to sing lots of Christmas songs and carols. The Christmas Eve Service was also held virtually with good attendance from the congregation and the community.

We look forward with hope to the year ahead, with gratitude to our minister and music director who have kept us together in spite of all the challenges.

Janet Heffer

Highland Hills United Church Reports

Highland Hills United Church Funds

Summary of 2020 Income and Expenses and 2021 Budget

1. OPERATING (General) FUND

The receipts and expenses in this fund represent the costs to celebrate our Faith, maintain and operate our buildings, and work in our community. Note: the UCW is not budgeted for a financial contribution at this time but is willing to offer support when needed.

	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
1 INCOME			
2 Donations			
3 General - Weekly	\$100,616	\$95,000	\$99,000
4 Initial	\$209	\$275	\$200
5 Receiptable Sundry	\$310	\$2,000	\$500
6 Unreceiptable other Loose	\$277	\$2,000	\$0
7 TOTAL Donations	\$101,412	\$99,275	\$99,700
8 From Community			
9 Fundraising	\$2,080	\$13,000	\$5,000
10 Grants	\$8,487	\$0	\$1,000
11 In-Lieu of Rent - Minden	\$550	\$3,000	\$1,000
12 In-Lieu of Rent - Zion	\$1,000		
13 Interest Groups - Minden	\$2,987	\$8,000	\$500
14 TOTAL From Community	\$15,104	\$24,000	\$7,500
15 Other			
16 HST Refund	\$14,516	\$12,500	\$8,000
18 Interest Income	\$1,901	\$3,000	\$12,000
19 Misc.	\$514	\$0	\$0
20 TOTAL Other	\$16,931	\$15,500	\$20,000
21 TOTAL General Fund Income	\$133,447	\$138,775	\$127,200
22			
23 EXPENSES			
24 Administration			
25 Admin Other	\$0	\$30	\$30
26 Admin Supplies	\$186	\$350	\$100
27 Collection Envelopes	\$424	\$400	\$400
28 HHPC Assessment	\$88,006	\$96,408	\$84,840
29 TOTAL Administration	\$88,616	\$97,188	\$85,370
30 Other Expense			
31 Financial	\$260	\$200	\$200
32 Miscellaneous expense	\$7,328	\$500	\$500
33 Region Representative Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
35 Worship	\$341	\$800	\$100
36 TOTAL Other Expense	\$7,929	\$1,500	\$800

37	Personnel			
38	CPP & EI	\$94	\$190	
39	Janitorial Services - Minden Site	\$3,004	\$4,800	\$4,000
40	Janitorial Services - Zion Site	\$1,793	\$5,200	
41	Music Services	\$6,384	\$7,650	\$6,600
42	WSIB	\$100	\$100	
43	TOTAL Personnel	\$11,375	\$17,940	\$10,600
44	Property - Minden			
45	Building Maintenance - Minden Site	\$1,156	\$1,000	\$2,000
46	Building Supplies - Minden Site	\$423	\$700	\$500
47	Electricity - Minden Site	\$2,130	\$3,000	\$2,500
48	Heating Fuel - Minden Site	\$5,031	\$7,000	\$5,500
49	Insurance - Minden Site	\$6,175	\$4,300	\$6,100
50	Other General Fund Expenses Property		\$100	
51	Water and Sewer - Minden Site	\$1,248	\$1,200	\$1,300
52	TOTAL Property - Minden	\$16,163	\$17,300	\$17,900
53	Property - Zion			
54	Building Maintenance - Zion Site	\$343		
55	Building Supplies - Zion Site	\$35	\$100	
56	Electricity - Zion Site	\$733	\$600	
57	Heating Fuel - Zion Site	\$3,294	\$2,500	
58	Insurance - Zion Site	\$1,590	\$1,260	
59	Taxes - Zion Site	\$172	\$200	
60	Telephone - Zion Site	\$0	\$0	
61	Water and Sewer - Zion Site	\$187	\$150	
62	TOTAL Property - Zion	\$6,354	\$4,810	
63	Work in the Community			
64	Advertising	\$367	\$1,000	\$200
65	Outreach	\$550	\$2,100	\$600
66	Outside-the-Box	\$0	\$500	
67	Pastoral Care	\$0	\$200	\$0
68	Youth Programs	\$0	\$500	
69	TOTAL Work in the Community	\$917	\$4,300	\$800
70	TOTAL General Fund Expenses	\$131,354	\$143,038	\$115,470
71	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$2,093	-\$4,263	\$11,730

Note #1 - Line 32 - As per Unified Board minutes \$6,746 for Manse Furnace replacement,

Returned Cheque \$200 & Minden Hills auto debit error correction \$381

2. BUILDING FUND

The receipts and expenses in this fund relate to capital work on UCC buildings

	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
1 <u>INCOME</u>			
2 Building Fund Income			
3 Building Donations	\$2,476	\$2,500	\$2,500
4 Interest for building repairs	\$2,889	\$3,800	\$3,000
5 Rev. Kim's Chair Fund	\$935		\$0
6 Storage Fund	\$860		\$2,335
7 Technology Fund	\$4,210		\$3,000
8 TOTAL Building Fund Income	\$11,370	\$6,300	\$10,835
9			
10 <u>EXPENSES</u>			
11 Building Fund Expenses			
12 Building Capital - Minden Site	\$3,728	\$15,000	\$20,000
13 Building Capital - Zion Site	\$1,584	\$0	
14 Storage Facility			\$2,000
15 Technology	\$424		\$3,000
16 TOTAL Building Fund Expenses	\$5,736	\$15,000	\$25,000
17 TOTAL Building Fund	\$5,634	-\$8,700	-\$14,165
18 Transfer from Reserves as Required			\$14,165
19 Net Building Fund assuming Transfers			\$0

3. MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS

	2020 Actual	2020 Target	2021 Target
1 <u>INCOME</u>			
2 Benevolent Fund	\$465		
3 M&S	\$18,188	\$14,000	\$ 14,000
4 Memorial Fund			
5 Special Responses	\$50		
6 <u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
7 Benevolent Remitted	\$0		
8 M & S Remitted	\$18,188		
9 Special Responses	\$50		

This page was updated to add section 3, which was missing from the original.

Highland Hills United Church Cash and Investments

As of Dec. 31, 2020

Account	Balance
Bank Accounts	
01 Chequing CIBC HHUC	\$40,414.24
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$40,414.24
Asset Accounts	
02 Operating Fund	-\$ 9,884.95
03 Benevolent Fund	\$ 465.00
04 Building Fund	\$ 2,547.76
05 Memorial Fund	\$ 2,891.05
06 Mission & Service	\$
07 Capital Fund (Restricted Zion & 12 Mile \$369,929.74)	\$369,929.74
08 Technology Fund - Zion pew proceeds	\$ 3,786.28
09 Planned Gift Fund	\$ 8,891.50
10 Reserve Fund (Kirkwood \$226,375.90)	\$226,375.90
11 Kitchen Fund	\$ 7,496.95
12 Music Fund	\$ 2,657.76
13 Storage Fund	\$ 1,750.00
14 Rev Kim's Chair Fund	\$ -
15 Other Invested Funds	\$ 11,709.85
TOTAL Asset Accounts	\$628,616.84
OVERALL TOTAL	\$669,031.08

Notes: Account 01 is held at CIBC. Accounts 07, 09, 10 & 15 are invested primarily in Canaccord and some other institution GICs.

Accounts 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 08, 11, 12, 13 & 14 are representative values. The actual dollars for those funds are held in accounts 01 and 15 for cash flow purposes.

Choir Report

The HHUC Choir started off 2020 with a busy schedule. Following the Christmas Cantata and Christmas Eve Service, we were right into rehearsals for a Good Friday Cantata.... and then we learned about the perils of COVID-19 and life changed dramatically for everyone.

We have not met as a choir since March. However, Melissa Stephens has come up with many ideas to keep us connected and tuned into wonderful listening opportunities. We have found many ways to stay in touch – perhaps the best one Melissa introduced was Cocktails with the Choir. We connected through Zoom each Thursday for a couple of months at our regular rehearsal time – enjoyed our own beverages and snacks and shared our experiences and activities. It was very successful and continued until we had all settled into our unique ways of coping with the situation.

Of special note – Melissa’s role as Choir Director expanded and took on new meanings. She and Rev. Max have worked diligently together to bring meaningful Zoom services to this congregation as well as friends from many locations. They have embraced technology and continuously improved the technical quality of their recordings. Kudos to them both for doing such a wonderful job of maintaining and fostering our church family and, indeed, expanding it.

All choir members were deeply saddened by the passing of Melissa’s husband, Craig, on July 1st. He was a constant support to Melissa and a wonderful technical guru for the choir.

We look forward to the day when we can be together again to pursue our love of music and prepare to assist with weekly services back in the church setting.

Stay Safe.

Joan Chapple on behalf of Melissa Stephens and the Choir

Fundraising Report

We started the year planning for a variety of events to take place throughout the year. Pat Thornett, Donna Darby and I each shared our ideas and took responsibility for different events. By the middle of February things were really falling into place. When the world realized the magnitude of the COVID-19 virus we had to cancel most of our events. Our efforts to have a great year for fundraising vanished immediately. We are currently looking for events we can have under the current environment and prepare for when we can get back to a new normal life.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who support our fundraising activities and we welcome any new ideas.

Special thanks to Pat Thornett and Donna Darby for all their support and leadership of their events. Bruce Down and Brian Austen for all the events they are involved in.

Tom Parish

Pastoral Care Committee Report

The Pastoral Care Committee kicked into high gear when the COVID-19 pandemic led to a shut down of so much in our area, province, country and around the world. We contacted the people of our pastoral charge, offering to deliver groceries, medicines, or other needs, and simply to stay in touch during the time of isolation. As the months passed, our callers did a fine job of remaining in contact with the people of our faith community. People were grateful to hear a friendly voice and know that their church cared.

We are also grateful, as a committee, for all the people in our midst who provide pastoral care on a regular basis in an unofficial but thoughtful way. Not only our pastoral charge members, but people in the broader community, are cared for genuinely and faithfully.

Barb Parish, Co-chair and Marybeth Wilson, Co-chair

Property Report

It has been a different year with very little to report. Our long time caretakers, Wayne and Lynn Cox, retired in June and Paul Rutledge commenced those duties in late June. We extend our gratitude to Wayne and Lynn for their many years of dedicated service.

Late in the year we enclosed the storage area in the lower level and added a good amount of shelving. We are currently assessing what to put on the shelves and what may be surplus.

Future plans may include increased outside storage but that is not determined at this time.

Thank you to all the committee members for their support and may we all stay safe and hope for a sense of normal to return.

Neil Darby, Co-Chair

Trustees Report

Well, this has been a year we won't soon forget in so many ways.

Sale of Zion Church and the Vacant Lot

The year was filled with the many steps it took to sell Zion Church. In the Spring, we entered into an agreement with Helen and David Litt who intend to use part of the church as an antique store and lease part of it as a bakery. David and Helen rented the property from us (for the cost of utilities) through the summer and the deal closed in October once the property was rezoned to meet their needs. During that period there were multiple steps including the conveyance of the cemetery to Algonquin Highlands.

Also through the summer, Joan Chapple and her Group of Four with the able assistance of Don Pflug sold and removed the pews from the church.

From the proceeds of the sale, our costs of the sale were reimbursed to HHUC and then 10% of the net amount was donated to The United Church of Canada designated for Indigenous Ministries. The balance has been invested by the Trustees as noted below.

Once it was clear that the church sale was going to close, we put the Vacant Lot (the 1.6 acre lot across the road allowance from the church) on the market. This property sold very quickly and has been purchased by a lady with strong family ties in the community. We understand she intends to build a house on the property.

Investment Management

With the completion of the sale of the church and vacant lot, the Trustees have been busy investing the proceeds to the long term benefit of the congregation. We have obtained some professional help in this matter through Canaccord Genuity who had previously worked with Zion Church on the investment of funds from the sale of 12-Mile Lake Church. The

bulk of our investments are in GICs with modest investment in preferred shares, balanced funds and ETFs. We will continue to work with the Finance Committee of the Church regarding the long term requirement for funds.

The following people remain your Trustees – Joan Chapple, Ross McMullen, Wes Lytle, Brian Austen, Max Ward, Tom Davidson, Bruce McClennan (Chair)

Bruce McClennan

Highland Hills United Church Women Report

We had our usual meeting in February with 13 ladies present. We approved 12 donations to other worthy causes and set our M & S objective at \$2,000.00. Little did we know how important this face to face meeting would be.

Our March meeting was replaced by the Kawartha Highlands Presbyterial Annual Meeting in Bobcaygeon. 6 ladies attended and Elinor Hamilton did her pill skit as our part of the program.

We resumed meeting monthly from August to December via Zoom.

In August we got involved in the Outreach project to provide masks for Archie Stouffer Elementary School. Two deliveries were made to the school of approximately 200 masks each. Thanks to our ladies who sewed: Marilyn Burrows, Eleanor Hall, Susan Hay, Cindy O'Hanley, Sue Robinson, Melissa Stephens, Jane Symons, and Wilma Warne. Penny Manol was paid by Outreach to get it started.

We also donated to the YWCA HERS to cover extra cleaning expenses during COVID-19.

In September we recognized the retirement of Diane Welborn as church secretary with a gift.

In October we approved the purchase of candy for the Christmas Baskets.

In November we approved the gifts for the church staff. We also donated \$400.00 to a Place Called Home as they have used motels for housing due to COVID-19. (Note: they assisted over 180 men, women and families with emergency shelter and supported them in finding housing.)

In December we had a social Zoom meeting.

The fundraising for the year consisted of 3 Diners Club lunches. We also helped with the St. Patrick's dinner for the church.

We were fortunate to start the year with a balance of \$7,508.52. A big thank you to the ladies who have donated during the year. We were able to support our usual charities and even help where there were extra expenses. We also kept our Card Convenors, Barb Braker

and Sue Sisson, supplied with cards and stamps. It is much appreciated that they keep in touch with the congregation.

Our investment with KIVA (micro credit loan agency) has continued to help people get a hand up. The \$473.00 we invested has now loaned \$2,375.00 to 91 groups or individuals in 42 countries.

We look forward to 2021 and hope that we can get back to normal activities. However, we are happy that we are at least able to meet via Zoom and invite the ladies of the congregation to join us on January 18, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

Co Chair – Pat Thornett, Co Chair – Barb Braker, Treasurer – Joan Grant, Card Convenors – Barb Braker and Sue Sisson, Secretary – Mary Trepanier

Pat Thornett

Financial Statement Summary for Highland Hills UCW

Opening Balance January 1, 2020 \$ 7,508.52

INCOME:

UCW Offerings	\$ 669.00
Scotia Bank	25.00
Projects – Diners Club	1,445.00
Fair Board Lunch	175.00
Bank fee refund	.05
TOTAL INCOME IN 2020	<u>2,314.05</u>
Total	9,822.57

EXPENSES:

Donations United Church

Mission & Service (Treasurer of United Church of Canada)	2,000.00
Bursary Fund	100.00
Camp Quin-Mo-Lac	100.00
World Development	100.00
Five Oaks	100.00
National UCW	50.00
Other community donations (separate list)	2,653.95

Operating Expenses:

Kawartha High.Presbyterial UCW - 5% allocation	100.00
- Rally Speaker	15.00
Card Convenors	180.00
Kitchen	100.35
Bank fees - \$8.00 -\$.05	8.00
Project Expenses - Diners Club	350.03
Christmas Gifts	<u>150.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES IN 2020

BALANCE December 31, 2020 **\$ 3,815.24**

Investments in perpetuity with Scotia Bank in Lindsay - \$2,000.00 in memory of Olga Myles (only interest can be used); 2,000.00 in memory of Dr. Jamieson

COMMUNITY DONATIONS

Minden Food Bank	\$ 300.00
Fuel for Warmth	400.00
YWCA – HERS	600.00
Canoe FM	50.00
Our Daily Bread	50.00
Canadian Cancer Society (Hal.)	400.00
Point in Time – Food for Kids	400.00
A Place Called Home	400.00
Candy for Christmas Baskets	<u>53.95</u>
TOTAL	\$ 2,653.95

Maple Lake United Church Reports

Maple Lake United Church Co-Chairs Report

What can be said that hasn't been or likely will be mentioned about the latter nine months of the past year of 2020. For several things changed drastically when our churches were closed because of the Corona virus that had began to cause major health concerns in our surrounding area. Fortunately there became an alternative way in which to have our Sunday Services continue; if not by actually physically enjoying each other's company, but by the technology of ZOOM over a person's computer or by dialing in over their telephone from their homes. By using either of the mentioned methods many were able to enjoy listening, or seeing each other for a few minutes prior to the 9:30 am designated time that Rev. Max would begin to present his weekly Sermon.

After holding a mid February Valentine's benefit Concert the Maple Lake United Church wasn't permitted to hold any of the usual familiar fund raising events after the recommended March shut down such as their dinners or rentals for musical concerts; a tremendous thank you goes out to the few that gave of their time in order to not only prepare several pies for a summer bake sale, but for the great financial success for their effort. A detailed account of this and others will be reported in our church financial report. Also a big thank you to the folks that continued to give financially during this unprecedented time in order to help offset the continuing expenses such as the monthly delivery charge for hydro, church insurance, winter time heating costs and wages for any paid employees.

Similar to any organization it would have difficulty functioning properly if it wasn't for those who contribute by volunteering their time and services. Whether they are members or an inherent their support is most valuable and required. The following is a list of those devoted individuals that agreed to serve on the various committees during the year 2020.

Chair/ Co Chairs -----	Judy & Albert Carpenter
Chair Elect -----	Larry Giles
Secretary -----	Deloris Bailey
Treasurer -----	Beverly Upton
Music Director -----	Kathleen Owens
Ministry & Personnel -----	Shirley Johnston and Larry Giles
Pastoral Care -----	Pat Marshall
Pulpit Supply -----	Rev. Max Ward
Envelope Steward -----	Allan Upton
Presbytery Representative -----	Thea Patterson
Property Committee -----	Albert Carpenter, Pat Marshall, Allan Upton
HOUSEKEEPING -----	Betty Berry and Judy Carpenter
OUTREACH REPRESENTATIVE ----	Thea Patterson
RENTALS OF THE CHURCH -----	Albert Carpenter
WORSHIP COMMITTEE -----	Deloris Bailey and Albert Carpenter
MEMORIAL FUND -----	Beverly Upton and Albert Carpenter
TRUSTEES -----	Allan Upton, Judy and Albert Carpenter, Kathleen Owens

After serving in the position of Vice Chair for two years and then as Co Chairs of the Maple Lake Church over the past six years the time has come to hand over the church chair duties to the nominated vice chair of the last February 2nd 2020 AGM, Mr. Larry Giles. As in the past those who have served in this necessary position over the years have benefitted and appreciated your support; so let's continue this tradition through out the upcoming year of 2021. The Maple Lake United Church Mission Statement is to "CONNECT PEOPLE TO CHRIST AND TO EACH OTHER"

Judy and Albert Carpenter, 2020 co-chairs of the Maple Lake United Church

Maple Lake United Church 2020 Annual Meeting

at Maple Lake United Church, Sunday, Feb.2, 2020

On Sunday February 2nd/20 after the conclusion of the regular church service and a special pot luck lunch the Maple Lake United Church congregation held their Annual General Meeting. The Meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM by co chair Judy Carpenter who thanked those present for attending; which consisted of Ray Campbell, Betty Berry, Pat Marshall, Kathleen Owens, Larry Giles, Deloris Bailey, Rev. Max Ward, Allan and Beverly Upton, Judy and Albert Carpenter. Reverend Max then started things off with a prayer.

The agenda for the Meeting that had been passed around earlier was moved by Allan Upton and seconded by Ray Campbell to be accepted. Carried. Once the A .G. Minutes of the previous Meeting of February 3 2019 were read over they were moved by Pat Marshall and seconded by Betty Berry to be accepted. Carried.

The folks were then asked if they wished to serve on their various committees for another term during 2020.

There was one position that required filling; with that being the Vice Chair. Mr. Larry Giles was nominated for and he accepted to fill this vacancy. All other folks that were in attendance, or had given their answer beforehand agreed to remain as before.

The committees and representatives for the year of 2020 are as follows.

Chair/Co Chair---- Albert and Judy Carpenter
Vice- Chair ---- Larry Giles
Secretary ----- Deloris Bailey
Treasurer ----- Beverly Upton
Music Director ---- Kathleen Owens
Worship Committee ---- Deloris Bailey & Albert Carpenter
Pastoral Care ---- Pat Marshall
Pulpit Supply ---- Rev. Max Ward
Ministry and Personnel ---- Shirley Johnston and Larry Giles
Presbytery & Outreach representative --- Thea Patterson
Envelope Steward & Manse Rep. --- Allan Upton
Property Committee --- Albert Carpenter, Pat Marshall
Memorial Fund Representatives--- Beverly Upton & Albert Carpenter
Trustees ---- Allan Upton, Judy & Albert Carpenter, Kathleen Owens
Housekeeping ---- Betty Berry

A few items were brought for discussion; with one to help make money and the others will cost money.

Firstly with our Valentine Musical Concert approaching soon on Saturday February 15th/20 it was decided to once again leave the time for this as a 2 o'clock afternoon starting time.

Because of the now current Health Department guidelines relating to how and where food and refreshments can be served it was recommended that only store bought prepackaged items could be used; upstairs in the church.

Secondly a slightly more lengthy discussion took place over more local Health Department regulations concerning the church's domestic water disinfection system and the necessity of requiring two more kitchen sinks; a small one for hand washing and another as a disinfection rinse sink for food handling utensils. Without these items being addressed within the next few months it would mean that any planned fund raising events would not be possible. Even though having this done will be costly it was finally thought that there is a good chance that funding is available to offset some of this expense. It was moved by Betty Berry and seconded by Ray Campbell that we proceed with these upgrades. Carried. Albert C. Is to check with licensed contractors in order to get their quotes for doing this work.

One important thing that had been achieved by several of the church congregation was the taking and passing of the Food Handler Course last December 4 2019.

Our church treasurer Beverly Upton gave an excellent report on the ongoing bank accounts of the Memorial and Operating Accounts. The usual operating costs are always with us, whether it be insurance, fuel, building repairs or employee wages.

Other committee members gave short reports such as the Worship, Pastoral Care; as well as from the property folks mentioning that with the new propane furnace that was installed there should hopefully be a reduction on fuel costs.

It was moved by Pat Marshall and seconded by Kathleen Owens that the committee reports be approved. Carried.

Once again the topic of what and where to hold any possible fund raising events came up. The following is a rough idea of the types of things that were brought forward, as well as important dates for them to be held.

A Valentines Musical Concert on Saturday Feb. 15th starting at 2:00 PM
An Easter Ham Dinner in April
A Bake Sale in June at the West Guilford Rec. Centre
Possibly a Strawberry Dessert Social on a July afternoon.
A Ham Dinner in October
And another Bake Sale at the West Guilford Centre in early December.

Rev. Max gave an uplifting prayer at the end of any further discussions.

A motion was made by Allan Upton and seconded by Ray Campbell that the Meeting be adjourned at 1:45. Carried

Maple Lake United Church Financial Statement

MAPLE LAKE UNITED CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
2018 - 2019- 2020

INCOME	ACTUAL 2018	ACTUAL 2019	ACTUAL 2020	BUDGET 2020
Offering	11,460.00	10,899.00	10,249.00	14,000.00
M and S	2,107.00	1,787.00	1,560.00	1,800.00
Donations	2,841.45	6,140.70	1,541.00	4,000.00
Fundraising	6,399.36	6,461.03	2,479.40	5,100.00
Other	280.00	619.49	8,072.65	100.00
Total Income	23,087.81	25,907.22	23,902.05	25,000.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Pastoral Charge	12,636.00	13,824.00	12,604.00	14,628.00
M and S	2,107.00	1,787.00	1,560.00	1,800.00
Insurance	1,858.58	2,119.16	2,218.60	2,000.00
Organist	75.00	00.00	0.00	100.00
Hydro	959.01	894.27	660.90	900.00
Fuel	4,627.60	4,381.17	1,956.68	4,500.00
Water Testing	101.70	135.60	67.80	140.00
Hot water tank	182.48	189.77	197.34	190.00
Bldg. Mtn.	562.25	511.01	2,125.20	437.00
Programs	00.00	00.00	00	25.00
Administration	248.89	24.92	145.37	100.00
Bank Charges	106.10	221.56	00	80.00
Misc. expenses	85.78	125.35	00	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$23,550.39	\$24,213.81	\$21,535.89	\$25,000.00

Book balance - Dec.31,2020--- General Account = \$14,362.94

Memorial Account = \$ 7,404.94

**MAPLE LAKE UNITED CHURCH
BUDGET TO ACTUAL - JANUARY 1 - DEC.31 , 2020- 100%**

Revenue	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	%
Offerings	14,000.00	10,249.00	73
Mission and Service	1,800.00	1,560.00	87
Loose Offering		24.00	
Visitor Offerings		25.00	
Donations	4,000.00	1,492.00	39
Fundraising	5,100.00	2,479.40	49
Other income	100.00	8,072.65	100
Total Revenue	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 23,902.05	96%

Expenses			
Pastoral Charge	14,268.00	12,604.00	88
Mission and Service	1,800.00	1,560.00	87
Insurance	2,000.00	2,218.60	111
Organist	100.00	0	
Hydro	900.00	660.90	73
Fuel	4,500.00	1,956.68	43
Water Testing	140.00	67.80	48
Hot Water Tank	190.00	197.34	104
Mtn. / Hskp.	647.00	2,125.20	
Programs	25.00	0	
Administration	250.00	145.37	58
Bank Charges	80.00	0	
Misc. expenses	100.00	0	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 21,535.89	86%

Book balance -Dec.31/20	\$ 14,268.51	Memorial /Bldg. fund
Bank balance - Dec. 31/20	\$ 14,362.94-	
Less o/s cheques	<u>94.43</u>	Dec. 31/20 - \$ 7,404.94
	<u>\$ 14,268.51</u>	

NB- Revenue high due to bequest from Warren Service Estate and 4 years HST rebate.

Maple Lake United Church Budget 2021

	ACTUAL 2020	BUDGET 2020	BUDGET 2021
<u>INCOME</u>			
Offerings	10,249.00	14,000.00	13,000.00
M & S	1,560.00	1,800.00	1,500.00
Donations	1,541.00	4,000.00	1,500.00
Fundraising	2,479.40	5,100.00	3,300.00
Other	8,072.65	100.00	1,000.00
TOTAL	\$23,902.05	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 20,300.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Pastoral Charge	12,604.00	14,628.00	12,720.00
M & S	1,560.00	1,800.00	1,500.00
Insurance	2,218.60	2,000.00	2,300.00
Organist	00.00	100.00	00.00
Hydro	660.90	900.00	800.00
Fuel	1,956.68	4,500.00	2,500.00
Water Testing	67.80	140.00	70.00
Hot Water Tank	197.34	190.00	200.00
Mtn./ Hskp.	2,125.20	437.00	100.00
Programs	00.00	25.00	00.00
Administration	145.37	100.00	60.00
Bank Charges	00.00	80.00	00.00
Misc. expenses	00.00	100.00	50.00
TOTAL	\$21,535.89	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 20,300.00

Housekeeping Report

The first three months of 2020 were similar to those of past years, but after the prescribed shut down of our church near the end of March the actual weekly custodial duties were not required nearly as often. As mentioned only the first quarter of the year required the usual dusting, vacuuming or sweeping of the main sanctuary and basement dining and kitchen areas. During the last three quarters of the 2020 year only occasional visual checks were made to keep an eye on and remove any of the more nuisance items that can't be helped from occurring such as cobwebs or the possible presence of those annoying small rodents.

Assistance over the year from Judy Carpenter and Pat Marshall was certainly appreciated by me; as they say the more hands make for easier work and less time for those involved.

Betty Berry

Pastoral Care Report

Happy New Year to all our Church families, and may we see a safer community ahead. Thank you to all our church committees for staying informed, and most of all to our outgoing lead hands in everything, Albert and Judy Carpenter, for their relentless dedication to our Maple Lake Church and Congregation...always on guard.

A very unpredictable year ahead. Although Rev. Max kept everyone up to date with online services, the atmosphere was not the same, especially for older communities where socializing and camaraderie are the norm. We strive to uplift in good and bad times, but fall short due to shut downs (which are totally necessary) and lack of communications (a lot of people do not have technical devices) to get through. Let's take a look at our sad world that we have created, and try to make a difference by: "not travelling", wearing a mask, social distancing, and sanitizing, then we are doing our part.

Frustration, stress, and death are possibilities for our smaller, older, communities when we are lax. Let's be vigilant and Do Our Part.

Pat Marshall

Property Report

Even though the Maple Lake United Church was unable to hold any of the usual Sunday sermons or other events during the last nine months of the calendar year of 2020, there were necessary things still being carried out. For instance during those cold winter months that start off the winter season and at least the last two months of 2020 year the church had to be checked in order to monitor the heat and water situations. An outside winter requirement was to try to keep the long pathway free of a buildup of snow so the propane fuel delivery person had easy access to the fuel tanks.

The local Department of Health had made some necessary suggestions in order to bring the church kitchen area and domestic water system up to meet their proposed guidelines. The congregation voted to proceed with having these items addressed.

The church kitchen required two more sinks if a large and costly commercial dishwasher wasn't installed. One small bar style sink and faucets for the sanitizing of people's hands and one more regular sized sink and faucets in order to disinfect the dishes and utensils after they had been washed and rinsed. Tea towels were not to be used; just have these hot items air dried on the counter in dish racks.

Three different licenced contractors were given separate appointments for a site meeting to make their suggestions and eventually give a price quote on the kitchen upgrades only. The job was finally awarded to Mr. Jay Hahn of Parkdale Mechanical of the Minden area.

On the church domestic water supply system it was thought an added safety solenoid device would be very beneficial in the event of a power outage or if the current ultra violet disinfection light was to malfunction. In the case of either of these things occurring the entire water supply system would be shut down so no untreated well water could be used. Because the then present ultra violet disinfection light housing unit wasn't compatible to have the solenoid shut off device attached to it the entire UV light and filters had to be removed and all new replacement equipment installed. The Pump Shop of Haliburton did this upgrade.

Last May a brief discussion took place between myself and the Local Health Department to see if they would approve my suggestion of not submitting any future domestic water samples for testing during the uncertain length of our church closure. Their representative thought this would be fine, but definitely to resume testing once the church was to be reopened.

Over the mandatory shut down period the basement, dining room and kitchen floors were repainted plus the repairing of a fairly substantial opening under the kitchen counter where the former small domestic dishwasher had been recently removed. A shallow wooden floor and a replacement cupboard front panel and door were then installed to repair that area.

In November a necessary warranty coverage on the heating furnace was done by a service man from Kegal Heating and Cooling.

As most folks are quite aware of there are those necessary things that are strongly recommended to be carried out even when a building such as our church building is actually closed for conducting any public activities. So for building insurance coverage purposes there were roughly two checks per week carried out by folks over just the last nine months; not including the first three months of 2020. This of course was done to check for any winter time heating malfunction or other possible damage like a broken window, water pipe leakage or possibly an external door forced open or unlocked.

Albert Carpenter

Worship Committee Report

The year 2020 began as any other year. Rev. Max Ward led the Maple Lake congregation each Sunday in worship at 11 a.m. The Maple Lake congregation acknowledged the land we walk on belongs to the Creator, and has been cared for by Indigenous Peoples and settlers for many generations.

Two candles were lit each Sunday in the church sanctuary, and the church banner always reflected the changing of the seasons. Sunday hymns were accompanied by Kathleen Owens at the organ.

A Valentine's Concert was held in the afternoon at Maple Lake United Church on Saturday, February 15th, with many local talented people entertaining the audience. Thank you, Kathleen Owens, for your dedication in organizing this event!

Queen Elizabeth II described the year 1992 as "annus horribilis" (horrible year). We became aware in March, that 2020 was not the same as any other year. We learned of the COVID-19 pandemic, which made 2020 an "annus horribilis" like we had never known. With many restrictions on everyone, we could not gather physically to worship.

Thankfully, we live in the age of technology. Through Zoom, the Maple Lake United Church congregation was able to join with the Highland Hills United Church congregation in worship every Sunday. Following worship, we enjoy chatting with one another. This encourages us to stay strong in our faith during these unusual times. Rev. Max reminds us to phone those who cannot join us on Zoom.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thess. 5:11)

Deloris Bailey